

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 689

By Tracy

A RESOLUTION to honor Larry Bright upon the occasion of his induction into the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should honor a remarkable professional who has rendered valuable service to the Tennessee Walking Horse industry, one of the Volunteer State's largest and most successful enterprises in terms of agriculture, commerce, tourism, and equine sports; and

WHEREAS, known far and wide as The World's Greatest Horse Show, the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration is the premier event for the Tennessee Walking Horse; spanning eleven days and nights prior to Labor Day and encompassing exciting competition, the Celebration annually awards more than \$650,000 in prize money and crowns the breed's World Grand Champion and some twenty World Champions; and

WHEREAS, on February 23, 2008, the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration (TWHNC) will be inducting a select group of worthy individuals into the TWHNC Hall of Fame during a gala evening at Calsonic Arena on the Celebration Grounds in Shelbyville, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the TWHNC Hall of Fame ceremony is held biennially to specially honor and recognize those sterling professionals who, "have made significant and outstanding contributions to the Walking Horse industry and the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration" during, "fifteen or more years involvement with the breed"; and

WHEREAS, the exemplary 2008 class of TWHNC Hall of Fame inductees most appropriately includes organist Larry Bright, of Tylertown, Mississippi, who is revered for his quarter-century of work as the official organist of The Celebration; and

WHEREAS, throughout his illustrious career as a musician, Mr. Bright has played at a variety of distinguished competitions, including the World Championship of the American Saddlebred in Louisville, Kentucky, the World Championship of the Morgan Horse in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, the Racking Horse World Championship in Decatur, Alabama, the Rose Bowl Parade in Pasadena, California, and the 1984 World Olympics in Los Angeles, California; and

WHEREAS, in 1961, he showed Mr. Music Man, and in 1988, his yearling colt, Royal Music Man, won the Yearling Colt Class at the Mississippi State Charity Show; and

WHEREAS, Larry Bright has lent his professional talents and leadership abilities to the Board of Directors and as Secretary of the Mississippi Walking Horse Association, and as Chairman of the Pearl, Mississippi Horse Show from 1966 to 1967; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Mr. Bright was most deservedly inducted into the Mississippi Walking Horse Hall of Fame in 1985; and

WHEREAS, his devotion to horses aside, Mr. Bright, of Larry Bright Realty in Jackson, is a member of the National Board of Realtors and the Mississippi Board of Realtors; his successful business has been in operation for forty-two years; and

WHEREAS, by means of his induction into the TWHNC Hall of Fame, Larry Bright has earned the ultimate accolade given by the Walking Horse industry, and we should pay homage to his life of purpose, commitment, and accomplishment on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby acknowledge and applaud Larry Bright, a gifted and dedicated organist, on the occasion of his induction into the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration Hall of Fame and commend him for his sterling service to the Walking Horse industry and the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.